

**APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR ACCURATELY METERING AND
CONVEYING DRY POWDER OR GRANULAR MATERIALS TO A
BLENDER IN A SUBSTANTIALLY CLOSED SYSTEM**

ABSTRACT

The present invention is directed to an apparatus and method for accurately metering and conveying a dry powder or granular material to a blender in a substantially closed system. The apparatus includes a storage tank adapted to hold the dry powder or granular material, a hopper disposed inside of the storage tank; and a conveyor at least partially disposed inside of the storage tank, which delivers the dry powder or granular material to the hopper. The apparatus also includes a metering feeder adapted to deliver the dry powder or granular material at a substantially uniform density from the hopper to a blender located outside of the storage tank. The apparatus is a substantially closed system, thus minimizing the risk that the dry powder or granular material will become airborne.